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15 May 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH: Executive Secretary

FROM: J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief, History Staff

SUBJECT: Proposed History Staff Interview with Mr. Nixon for
Helms DCI Study

1. As you know, the History Staff is finishing up its study of Richard Helms as Director of Central Intelligence.

2. We would find it extremely useful to interview former President Nixon about the role of Mr. Helms and CIA in the Nixon administration. I have attached a letter that I've drafted to Mr. Nixon requesting such an interview for , the Staff Historian most engaged in this study.

3. The purpose of this memorandum is to ask you to consider writing Mr. Nixon a letter supporting our request. I have attached a draft letter that may be suitable, if you are willing to write to Mr. Nixon.

/s/
J. Kenneth McDonald

Attachments

Distribution:

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Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D.C. 20505

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

Dear Mr. President:

The CIA History Staff is now at work on an official history of Richard Helms's tenure as Director of Central Intelligence. This study will be classified and for internal CIA use only.

We would find it helpful to talk with you about the Helms years--that is, up until Mr. Helms's resignation as Director in February 1973.

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Would it be possible for you to meet for an hour or so with [redacted]
[redacted], one of our Staff Historians?

I should add that we have the full cooperation and support of both Mr. Helms and the current DCI in undertaking this history.

In conducting interviews, our staff historians ordinarily use a tape recorder to insure accuracy. If you have no objection to our recording the interview, we shall send you the draft transcript for your review and corrections. The transcript will, of course, be classified.

STAT
I shall have [redacted] telephone your office next week to find out whether you feel able to help us.

Respectfully yours,

J. Kenneth McDonald
Chief Historian

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

24 MAY 1985

The Honorable Richard M. Nixon
26 Federal Plaza
New York, New York 10278

Dear Mr. President:

The Central Intelligence Agency History Staff is now in the concluding stages of work on an official history of Richard Helms as Director of Central Intelligence. This is a classified study that will be used only within the Central Intelligence Agency.

STAT The Chief Historian, Dr. J. Kenneth McDonald, has told me that he would like for [redacted], his staff historian most engaged in this study, to talk with you about the role Richard Helms and the Central Intelligence Agency played in your administration, from your first inauguration until Mr. Helms's resignation on 2 February 1973.

Dr. McDonald will be writing you soon about this matter. The purpose of this letter is simply to state my support for this project and to ask that you give the History Staff request consideration.

Respectfully yours,

/s/ Bill Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence